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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 30 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the peace process in Liberia issued on 28 July 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

## Statement on the peace process in Liberia issued on 28 July 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union condemns the repeated violations of the ceasefire agreement signed in Accra on 17 June 2003, as a major impediment to the successful conclusion of the peace process and a cause of untold sufferings for the civilian population.

The European Union urges the Government of Liberia and the rebel groups LURD and MODEL to sign without delay a comprehensive peace agreement in the framework of the ECOWAS-led peace talks due to resume in Accra on Monday, 28 July. It calls on all parties to rise above their narrow interests and to face the challenge of forging a true partnership for the reconstruction of a stable and democratic Liberia.

The European Union calls attention to the gravity of the humanitarian situation in Liberia and the urgent need to provide assistance. It reminds the signatories of the ceasefire agreement of their obligation to respect international humanitarian law, respect human rights, ensure that humanitarian initiatives are protected and allow unimpeded access to territory under their control for humanitarian actors.

The European Union stresses the importance of the earliest possible deployment of the interposition/international stabilization force. This must be accompanied by President Taylor's immediately stepping down.

The European Union stands ready to consider support for such a force.

The European Union calls on Liberia's neighbouring States to refrain from any action that might be construed as supporting or otherwise encouraging the continuation of the armed conflict.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.